FAO in the Kyrgyz Republic conducted training on crop assessment

5 August 2013 – Currently there are no strategic and consistent approach on Food Security situation assessment in the Kyrgyz Republic. A key aspect in this area is modern forecasting of gross production in the agricultural sector. Besides of already existing crop areas and total number of livestock it is also important to forecast productivity of plants and livestock in the process of agro forecasting.

Losses in agriculture sector productivity are usually linked with unfavorable weather conditions, failures in meeting agro-zoo-veterinarian terms, wrong time for harvesting, mechanic losses due to old and outdated agro mechanisms and set of other unfavorable aspects. Nevertheless no state agency within Kyrgyzstan analyses deeply and consistently these losses. Reports of involved ministries and agencies include only references that losses are taking place because of old technique, complex climatic conditions (landslides, drought, early frost), lack of information about harvesting in regions and etc. Low productivity of livestock explained by bad keeping and lack of breed improvement programs. Issues of biological and factual productivity are not given the appropriate attention which is hampering Food Security forecasting in the country.

Besides, approaches left after soviet times are still being used in the process of crop assessment. These approaches were based on large scale production of crop and livestock. Taking into consideration land reforms and privatization where more than 300 thousand small farms using different approaches in crop growing, pest management and harvesting replaced 400 large scale agro producers applied during Soviet times more or less the same agro technique, fertilizers, pest management and means for veterinary of livestock. So old system of crop assessment does not provide a full picture anymore but, on the contrary leads to serious data distortions of future crop and expected volumes of livestock production.

Thus EU and FAO project "Food Security Information System in the Kyrgyz Republic" invited for the modern crop assessment training specialists of the Ministry of agriculture and amelioration, National statistics committee, Ministry of economy, Hydrometeorology agency under the Ministry of emergency, Kyrgyz National agrarian university, Association of seeds producers, as well as agro development specialists from all rayon departments of Issyk-Kul province.

The training is conducted in Issyk-Kul between the 5th and 9th August 2013. Two FAO international experts were invited to facilitate the event. Agenda of the training included issues of crop assessment and providing reliable and well-timed agro statistics including prognosis of agro production based on improved agro meteorological forecasts, use of improved approaches in identifying biological crop capacity, assessment of the situation in livestock sector and discussion on how to adapt this methods in local conditions.